Santa Rosa County

HortSense

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
EXTENSION
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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Special points of interest:

- Biological method now available for mole cricket control
- Changes in pesticides licenses in effect
- Insecticide for blueberries re-approved
- "New" Trees for North Florida

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Front Page
by Dan Mullins

The following pages contain several items that we hope are of interest to those in the "green industry". Things are changing fast in our industry. Changes in pesticide regulations, marketing techniques and customer preferences make this a challenging and dynamic business.

Agricultural Directory Being Prepared

Extension in Santa Rosa County is creating a list of agricultural producers who wish to sell directly to consumers. In order to do this we need information from anyone who would like to participate.

Enclosed is a questionnaire from us regarding this. We will use this information to produce a directory so that consumers can purchase locally grown products.

This should benefit both you as the producer and the local consumer. Please return the completed questionnaire so that we can develop a detailed list of products offered in Santa Rosa County.

Irrigated Vegetables Look Good

Melons, lima beans, squash, peas, tomatoes and other irrigated vegetable crops are yielding well this spring and summer. The dry weather has resulted in fewer incidences of blights, rots and other fungal diseases.

Summer Suggestions

- Nurseries and homeowners in southern parts of the county should monitor irrigation wells. Due in part to 3 years of drought, we are seeing more contaminated wells. Contact this office if you would like to have your water tested.
- Scales and spider mites are showing up on many ornamentals. Inspect plants on a regular basis and control as needed.
- Chinch bugs and sod webworms generally become active in lawns from now until the first frost. Check lawns regularly in order to control these pests

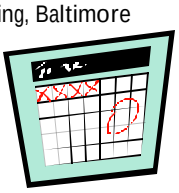
Upcoming Events

July 28-31 International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Conference & Trade Show. Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle, WA. See the website at: http://www2.champaign.isa-arbor.com/conference2002/index.html

August 2-4 – Southern Nursery Association, Atlanta, GA. 770-953-3311 http://www.sna.org/

Sept. 12-14 - Florida Nursery and Allied Trade Show (FNATS) - Orlando Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association (800-375-3642)

Sept 29- Oct 2, 2002- International Plant Propagators' Society
Eastern and Southern Regions Annual Meeting, Baltimore (860) 429-6818 or (817) 577-9272 www.ipps.org



Pesticide Potpourri

Excerpts from Chemically Speaking Newsletter

- Acramite® miticide (bifenazate) from Uniroyal Chemical, was registered in Florida effective March 7, 2002 for mite control on cotton, strawberry, and other crops (peach, nectarine, plum). *(FDACS PREC Agenda, 4/4/02).*
- In a letter addressed March 15, the Bayer Corporation requested the voluntary cancellation of all uses of fenamiphos (Nemacur®) effective May 31, 2005. Bayer additionally agreed that the 180-day comment period can be waived. The cancellation date will be the last date that Bayer can manufacture, sell, or distribute fenamiphos. However, dealers will be able to continue selling and users can continue using the product as long as they remain in the channels of trade, without limitation. Additionally, the EPA will calculate a cap for Nemacur® production based on an average of Bayer's last five years of production data. *(Bayer letter of 3/15/02).*
- Cornell researchers have developed a fibrous barrier that could help reduce reliance on insecticides for crops such as onion and cabbage. The researcher described the material as a type of cotton candy structure - but with only about one percent of the fiber. This provides a barrier that can be strategically placed to interfere with insect behavior. In untreated fields, cabbage maggot can destroy up to 90 percent of the crop and onion maggot can destroy up to 40 percent of the crop. By placing fiber near the base of onion plants, the number of eggs laid was reduced by almost 90 percent. (*Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News*, February 25, 2002).
- The EPA has issued a Section 18 specific exemption for the use of Knack® (pyriproxyfen) insect growth regulator for control of silverleaf whitefly on legume vegetables (Crop Group 6, except soybean) in Florida. The exemption extends from 2/5/02 through 2/5/03. Regulations associated with this exemption include a crop maximum of two applications made at least 14 days apart, with a 7-day pre-harvest interval. A maximum of 40,000 acres may be treated. Additionally, the exemption does not allow the planting of other crops (for which Knack® is labeled) in the treated area sooner than 30 days after the last application. *(FDACS letter of 2/11/02).*

Orthene (acephate) will continue to be available to homeowners well into the 21st century

- Valent USA Corp has reached an agreement with the EPA that ensures Orthene (acephate) will continue to be available to homeowners, farmers and professional users well into the 21st century. After an intensive review of Orthene, the EPA concluded that all Orthene products will remain available. Valent, however has agreed to modify Orthene labeling to withdraw Pest Control Operator use inside residential buildings, and certain residential turf uses. *(Source: Growing Concerns: Dave Palmer)*
- Bayer's acquisition of Aventis' agrichemical units was finalized on June 4. The new company name is now Bayer CropScience, and it will be comprised of three business groups: crop protection, bioscience, and environmental science. The operations of the two former companies will continue in parallel during the integration process. (Bayer CropScience Press Release, 6/5/02).

Featured Web Sites

- **Dr Ed Gilman** from the University of Florida has developed a new website entitled "Planting Trees in the Landscape" and is available at **http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/planting.**

The website contains information on tree selection, nursery stock, transportation, planting, establishment and pruning.

- Friday and Saturday evenings is a time of music and home grown food in Chumuckla. Check this site to learn more. **www.farmersopry.com**

Turf Tips

- There is a new publication that summarizes fertilization and irrigation needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes, **"Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes"** by L.E. Trenholm, E.F. Gilman, G.W. Knox and R. J. Black. This publication contains a summary of all recommendations concerning fertilization and irrigation of landscapes in one publication. It can be accessed at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP110.

- Mole crickets have become a serious turf problem, as you know. There are now several options for control. First, go to the web site http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IG001 . This describes the biology of this pest and includes currently recommended pesticides. We are excited about the biological control through the use of a parasitic nematode. This product, containing *Steinernema scapterisci*, was tested for many years in Florida, and we have done a test plot on an athletic field in Milton. It worked well for us. It is not readily available locally, as far as I know. **Gardens Alive**, a mail order company is selling it in consumer quantity. You can check this source out by going to www.gardensalive.com. Becker Underwood, a company in Ames Iowa will be selling the product (Nematac S) in quantity this fall. You can obtain much information by going to their website at http://www.bucolor.com/. Regardless of the control measures applied, timing of the treatment and proper watering of the soil prior to, are keys to control. This will be discussed in our publication and on the product level. (*Dan Mullins*)

We are excited about the biological control through the use of a parasitic nematode

Genetically Modified Grass on the Way?

In 1998, The Scotts Co. formed a partnership with Monsanto to develop new grass and flower varieties. As the U.S.'s largest producer of lawn and garden products, the company was recently cited as saying it's ready to sell genetically altered grass that will require less cutting and withstand repeated doses of weed killers. But first, The Scotts Co. faces a challenge from environmentalists who say the new product represents dangerous biological tinkering that will fundamentally alter nature. Scotts plans to ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture this spring for permission to sell its first batch of low-maintenance grass.

However, a money manager who wants Scotts to delay its bid to sell genetically modified grass, was quoted as saying, "There hasn't been enough long-term testing of the potential effects these plants could have on the environment." The story says that at Scotts' annual shareholders meeting last month, the manager was unsuccessful in an effort to gain approval for a resolution demanding more study of potential environmental and financial risks related to the new products.

The American Society of Landscape Architects has petitioned the USDA for independent research into the new grasses that Scotts and other companies are testing. Companies involved in biotechnology must ask the USDA for permission to plant, transport or sell their experimental plants. Len Hopper, chief landscape architect for the New York City Housing Authority, was quoted as saying, "We think the public would benefit from oversight by people who don't have a financial stake in this. We're talking about grass here, not something they're trying to develop to feed starving people." Scotts officials said their new grasses will benefit the environment by reducing the need for chemical treatments and curbing air pollution from lawn mowers. The company also is developing genetically modified petunias and other flowers that bloom longer. *(Source: Chemically Speaking, Feb,2002)*

Changes for Restricted-Use Licenses

Effective March 1, 2002 the following changes have been made in the restricted-use pesticide laws:

- Private and Public applicator fees (both initial and renewal) will increase from $35 to $60 for a 4 year license.
- Commercial applicator fees (both initial and renewal) will increase from $90 to $160.
- The Pesticide Dealer license will increase to $175.
- The Aerial category will change from a secondary to a primary category. That means aerial applicators will be able to get licensed with only an aerial license rather than have another license.
- Direct supervision: Licensed applicators who supervise unlicensed individuals who mix, load or apply pesticides will now be required to be immediately available by voice communication to the supervised applicator to provide direction and instruction during all time pesticides are being used.

Changes for PCO & Limited Licenses

New state rules have been proposed for PCO's (Pest Control Operators) and the Limited licenses (Limited Structural, Limited Lawn & Ornamental, and Limited Commercial maintenance). DACS (the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) is proposing changes to their Chapter 482 rules (changes to 5E-9) notably to "increase fees paid by pest control operators [and limited certificate holders] to improve enforcement efforts by funding additional [up to 8] new field inspector positions"... etc. Some of the changes include an increase in the fee to take the Limited exams from $75 to $150 and recertification fees from $35 to $75. Special ID card exams will increase from $150 to $200.

The fee for renewal of the PCO certificate will increase from $100 to $150. The issuance fee for the business license will increase from $150 to $250. Some other changes in forms are also included in this proposal.

To see the original text of the changes, go to the Florida Administrative Weekly site at http://faw.dos.state.fl.us/fawframes.html, then go to Vol 28 #6 for Feb 8, 2002, and then go to Section II, then go to page 7.

(Source: Growing Concerns- Dave Palmer)

"New" Trees for Florida Nurseries and Landscapes

Gary W. Knox, Extension Specialist and Professor of Environmental Horticulture, NFREC-Quincy

A well-known quotation reads, "There is no new thing under the sun." This is especially true for plants, so this discussion of "new trees" refers to plants that are new to me (and hopefully you). I compiled this list based on my observations and experiences as well as the expertise of plant enthusiasts who spoke at the 2001 Southern Plant Conference and other meetings. For the sake of this discussion, I have used the following definitions of "new plants" to identify the list of trees below.

"New plants" often refer to those that have been little used (such as winged elm) or were previously unknown (as with discoveries of "new" magnolias in China). "New plants" also include improved forms of "old" plants resulting from selecting superior forms of the plant (as with new cultivars of Southern magnolia) or from formal breeding programs (as with disease-resistant crape myrtles). "New" also may refer to plants that are now available in marketable numbers. This may have resulted from advances in propagation that allow more plants to be produced (for example, new techniques to root cuttings of live oak).

Alternatively, the numbers of plants simply may have increased slowly through conventional propagation, and there now are sufficient stock plants throughout the industry that significant numbers of the plant can be propagated and sold (for example, cultivars of red maple). "New plants" may be those that are rediscovered. Plants go in and out of style just like clothing fashions and, as an example, hydrangeas are now back in vogue. Finally, plants that were formerly underutilized, such as many native plants, may find new and expanded roles in current landscapes thanks to our ever-changing lifestyles and greater appreciation of gardening and environmentalism.

Within the constraints of these definitions and personal biases, I've

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Plant Problems

One common problem we saw this spring was **azalea leaf gall.** Weather conditions were just right for its development. A fungus causes azalea leaf gall. This fungus causes pale green or whitish galls, or tumor-like growths, to form on the leaves. Leaves often become thickened, curled and deformed. It tends to affect the young leaves. The good news is that it will not kill the azalea, but will make it very unsightly when it is severe.

If you find leaves with galls, handpick and destroy affected leaves. Continue to scout your azaleas once a week to look for signs of this disease. If the galls are not removed from the plant, chances are that it will be worse next year. It is important to destroy the affected leaves and not discard them underneath the shrub itself. As long as new growth appears, azaleas are susceptible to leaf gall.

Sometimes it may not be practical to pinch off all the affected leaves. In this situation, a fungicide may be helpful. A fungicide containing triadimefon (Bayleton) may help clear up the problem if sprayed every 10-14 days beginning immediately after bloom and continuing until new growth ends.

Fruit Facts

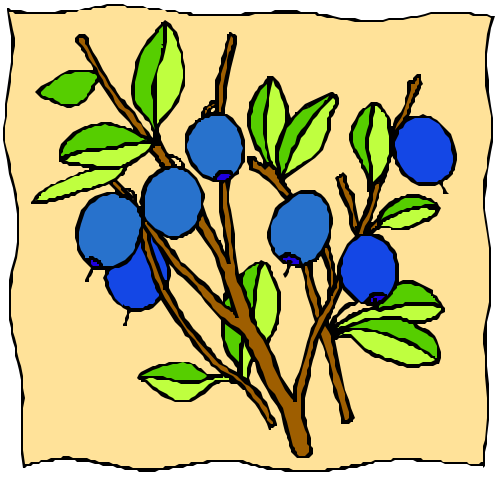
Spintor 2SC re-approved for use on blueberries in Florida

By Jeff Williamson

On January 25, 2002, I was informed that a supplemental label for use of Spintor 2SC insecticide to control thrips in blueberries has been accepted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Growers who wish to use this product must have a copy of the supplemental label in their possession. This label supplements the standard label affixed to the container. Use of Spintor 2SC according to this supplemental labeling is subject to all the use precautions and limitations imposed by the label affixed to the container.

An advantage of Spintor over other insecticides that are currently labeled for thrips control in Florida blueberries is that, if properly applied, Spintor can provide control of thrips during the bloom period. However, Spintor is toxic to bees. Therefore, care must be taken not to apply this product when bees are in the field actively foraging.



More information on this use restriction can be found in the Environmental Hazards section of the main label affixed to the container.

"New" Trees for Florida Nurseries and Landscapes

(Continued from page 4)
identified the following as "new trees" worthy of producing in the nursery and using in the landscape:

Acer rubrum 'Somerset' is a lesser known cultivar of red maple that has performed better than many others in a planting of red maple cultivars at Tifton, Georgia. The red maple cultivars 'October Glory'®, 'Autumn Flame'®, 'Fairview Flame' and 'Autumn Fantasy' also performed well. Two other maples, Florida maple and Chalk maple, are underutilized natives that form small trees and display good fall color. Their scientific names are in question, but are often listed as *Acer barbatum* (Florida maple) and *Acer leucoderme* (Chalk maple).

Sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) has long been admired for its form and fall color but is widely disliked due to the messy and spiny fruit. The cultivar 'Rotundiloba' is a fruitless sweet gum that should overcome any obstacle to its wider use.

Live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) is a beloved tree in the South, but the necessity of planting seed-grown live oaks resulted in trees with variable sizes and habits. New techniques for rooting live oak cuttings has allowed growers to select cultivars of live oak with improved form and uniform growth characteristics. Cultivars that are now being marketed areh Highrise®, Millenaire™, Southern Shade® and Shadowlawn™.

'Apalachee'Crape myrtle

Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* species) has become a widely used plant thanks to breeders who developed crape myrtles with improved flower color, ornamental bark, various habits, and disease resistance. However, in the crush of cultivars that have been released, several superior cultivars of crape myrtle have been overlooked.

'Apalachee' is the best lavender flowered tree-type crape myrtle and has a dense canopy, upright habit, and outstanding cinnamon-colored bark. 'Choctaw' has large panicles of light pink flowers on a fast-growing, vaseshaped tree. 'Caddo' grows up to 10 feet tall and wide and features bright "bubble-gum pink" flowers. *(Source: Knox, NFREC News, 4-7)*